

March 17, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC

Dear President Biden,

We write today to strongly encourage you to carry out an interagency review of ways to boost Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) exports to Europe. Recent media reports have suggested that the announcement of this review has been shelved due to climate concerns. As our European allies are finally taking necessary steps to reduce their reliance on Russian energy, it is more important than ever that the United States step in to fill that role.

This year, the United States is set to become the world's largest exporter of LNG. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, U.S. LNG exports will reach 11.5 billion cubic feet per day this year, accounting for roughly 22% of the expected world LNG demand for 2022. It is crucial that your Administration support the permitting and developing of new pipelines, new LNG export terminals, and work to increase capacity at existing terminals, so that American energy can continue to reach more markets around the world.

The Potential Gas Committee (PGC) produces a biennial assessment of U.S. technically recoverable gas resources in conventional and unconventional reservoirs. In its 2021 report, the PGC assessment shows that U.S. natural gas supply remains abundant. The assessment shows that the U.S. possesses 3,386 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) of technically recoverable resources (those in the ground but not yet recovered). When added to proven reserves, the total gas (resources plus reserves) rises to a record 3,863 Tcf, up slightly from the comparable year-end 2018 assessment.

Following in the steps of the U.S., the European Commission has also announced that they intend to cut dependency on Russian gas by two-thirds this year and work over the medium term to end its reliance on Russian energy before the end of this decade. You and your administration have worked to maintain a united front with our European allies against Russian aggression in Ukraine. A commitment by your administration to boost LNG supplies and other clean energy fuels to European Union (EU) countries, as well as countries in Europe outside of the EU such as the United Kingdom, those in the Balkans, and others, would show a serious and long-term commitment to our allies. The recent authorization of additional LNG exports by the Department of Energy this week is a step in the right direction. Financial markets and institutions would also be reassured by this public commitment and may be more willing to provide needed funding for future projects.

As rising energy costs continue to affect the global economy, natural gas offers a cleaner solution to keep power prices lower and maintain the reliability of electric grids. However, hesitancy amongst certain states to permit new pipelines to bring in American natural gas has led to pipeline capacity constraints in areas such as New England and the wider Northeast region, requiring homes and businesses there to import LNG from abroad despite our abundance of this fuel here at home.

The European Commission has even labeled natural gas as a “transition” fuel in its taxonomy for sustainable investments, part of its European Green Deal framework, recognizing that as there is a shift to renewables, fuels such as natural gas will play an important, stabilizing role for years to come.

It is important that America strive for energy independence here at home, and with an all-of-the-above, technology neutral energy approach that will support good paying jobs, stable energy predictability and lower emissions. With an abundance of resources from coast to coast, the U.S. has the capacity to share American energy with our allies around the world. Expediting approvals of pipelines and other natural gas infrastructure enhancements remain imperative as time is of the essence. We strongly urge your administration to expeditiously announce and carry out an interagency review on ways to boost LNG exports.

Sincerely,

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David Schweikert  
Member of Congress